



## **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Announces Jun Märkl as Artistic Advisor**

(Indianapolis, Ind. – May 3, 2021) As the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra works to identify its next music director, Jun Märkl will serve as artistic advisor for the 2021-22 season. A favorite of the orchestra and its audiences for more than a decade, he first conducted the orchestra in August of 2000 at Symphony on the Prairie and has been invited as guest conductor every year since the 2009-10 season.

According to Katie McGuinness, director of artistic planning for the ISO, Märkl's role includes serving a key role in the audition process as well as assisting in the development and support of the artistic vision of the ISO.

"Jun has helped enormously in crafting and establishing the theme for the upcoming 2021-22 classical season, already putting his stamp on the ISO and its future," says McGuinness.

While Märkl is familiar with both the orchestra and the Indianapolis community, he is excited to begin this new role.

"The season will be a crucial one in our efforts to leave behind a crisis, return to live performances and reactivate the close relationship with our audience. As we prepare for the orchestra's future by continuing the search for a new music director, our coming season will be much more than a transition period," he says. "We want to surprise audiences with a fresh look at classical symphonic music; we want to create new relationships within our community, and we want to make a musical contribution to the ongoing discussions in society. Many countries from around the world will be represented in our 2021-22 season."

The necessity for someone of Märkl's experience, skill and familiarity became even more clear as the search for a music director was delayed by the global pandemic. "During this interim period as we search for Krzysztof Urbanski's successor, we wanted to make sure that we could take time to really research candidates and find the right person for what the ISO needs right now," says McGuinness. Being in Jun Märkl's safe hands allows us to do that and we are so grateful to him for this. Even when we find our new Music Director, the relationship with Jun will continue on."

CEO James Johnson concurs. "I am confident that the already-established community relationships combined with the artistic vision and leadership he brings to the ISO will only strengthen the organization," says Johnson. "To have a person of his depth and caliber assisting the organization as we emerge from the past year is truly a blessing."

Märkl is internationally respected as an interpreter of core Germanic repertoire and has become known for his refined and idiomatic explorations of the French Impressionists. He has been appointed Music Director of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Artistic Advisor for Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Residentie Orkest, The Hague beginning in 2021. He has served as a

guest conductor throughout the United States, including the San Francisco and Metropolitan Operas as well as the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Boston, and Cleveland.

Born in Munich, Märkl won the conducting competition of the Deutscher Musikrat in 1986 and studied at Tanglewood with Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa. Soon after he appeared in opera houses throughout Europe followed by his first music directorships at the Staatstheater Saarbrücken and the Nationaltheater Mannheim.

### **About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**

Since its founding in 1930, the ISO has presented a range of classical, pops, family and holiday programming to hundreds of thousands of people each year. The ISO continues to engage new audiences through innovative programming including the Fifth Third Bank Lunch Break Series of casual 45-minute performances each summer, the DeHaan Classical Series, the Printing Partners Pops Series, the holiday traditions of AES Yuletide Celebration, the Stella Artois Happy Hour at the Symphony Series, and the popular Bank of America Film Series. For more information, visit [www.IndianapolisSymphonyOrchestra.org](http://www.IndianapolisSymphonyOrchestra.org).